

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 February 2004 (12.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/013604 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12Q 1/02, 1/04,
1/18, C12M 1/12, 1/18, C12N 1/20, 11/02

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/023928

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(22) International Filing Date: 30 July 2003 (30.07.2003)

(81) Designated States (*national*): CA, JP, US.

(25) Filing Language: English

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE,
BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU,
IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR).

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/400,332 1 August 2002 (01.08.2002) US

Published:

— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

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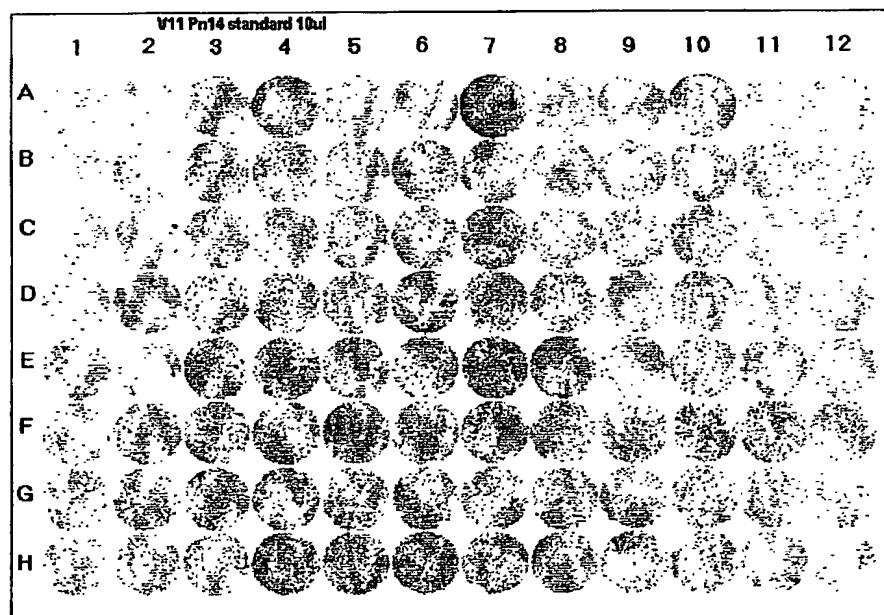
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
10 September 2004

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: NOVEL PROCEDURE FOR GROWTH, IMAGING, AND ENUMERATION OF MICROBIAL COLONIES FOR
SEROLOGICAL OR SCREENING ASSAYS



(57) Abstract: A novel method is provided, for use within serological or screening assays, wherein microbial colonies are grown on filter membranes in multi-well plates. This process enables the colonies to be stained, imaged, and counted automatically using such automated systems as, *e.g.*, computer and video-based imaging systems.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/23928

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/02, 1/04, 1/18; C12M 1/12, 1/18; C12N 1/20, 11/02
US CL : 435/29, 32, 34, 177, 252.1, 288.4, 297.5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/29, 32, 34, 177, 252.1, 288.4, 297.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,365,368 B1 (MINNICH et al) 02 April 2002 (02.04.2002), see column 2, lines 27-64 and column 4, lines 28-48.	1-63
Y	WO 01/59157 A2 (MILLIPORE CORPORATION) 16 August 2001 (16.08.2001), see the abstract and Figure 1.	1-63
Y, P	US 2002/0192811 A1 (PITT et al) 19 December 2002 (19.12.2002), see pages 1-2, section 0009.	1, 31, 61
Y, P	US 2003/0082516 A1 (STRAUS, D.) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003), see entire document.	1-63

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

05 March 2004 (05.03.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 JUN 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/ISA/23928

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
HCAPLUS, MEDLINE, WPIDS, USPAT, EPAB, JPAB, PGPUBS
search terms: multi-well, plate, filter, membrane, enumeration, microbe